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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 002258

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ELA AND DRL/NESCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/07/2029

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SUBJECT: ASWAN: GOE ENLISTS LOYAL NGOS TO COOPERATE ON
OVERALL AGENDA

REF: A. CAIRO 1975 B. CAIRO 1531 Classified By: Economic-Political Minister-Counselor Donald A. Blome for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1.KEY POINTS -- (C) On November 23 in Aswan, a local Ministry of Social Solidarity official told us that due to scarce resources, the GOE relies

2.(C) Comment: The GOE's relative neglect of remote Aswan, where it faces no significant political challenge, is in sharp contrast to its efforts

3.(U) The Upper Egyptian Governorate of Aswan's population is about 1 million, half of whom are ethnic Nubians. Aswan stretches from the Sudanese

4.(C) Ahmed Badawi, a Ministry of Social Solidarity official in Aswan Governorate, told us that the GOE has "given local NGOs the lead" on social

5.(SBU) We met separately with about a dozen local NGOs in Idku who described their work in cooperation with the GOE and NDP. The NGOs noted that

6.(SBU) The NGOs use the foreign funding to establish and staff schools, child care centers, vocational training centers and the city's one youth

7.(SBU) Many of these NGOs, which focus on socio-economic issues, told us they have also worked with the NDP to hold party membership elections

8.(C) Representatives of the XXXXXXXXXXXX criticized the GOE for not having a serious plan to address the governorate's socio-economic problems

9.(C) XXXXXXXXXXXX representatives said that with no political opposition, the NDP divides local council and parliamentary seats among the governorate